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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,917	10/10/2001	Thomas L. Welsh	FLN.P.US0002	9215

26360 7590 01/13/2003

RENNER, KENNER, GREIVE, BOBAK, TAYLOR & WEBER
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EXAMINER

NICHOLSON, ERIC K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/975,917

Applicant(s)

WELSH ET AL.

Examiner

Eric K Nicholson

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4,5,8. 6) ☐ Other: _____

The prior art submitted by applicant has been reviewed however the IDS filed February 12, 2002 (paper no. 5) which cites British patent no. 1931 appears not to be related to the present invention as the British patent relates to a Bed or Seat and not a Pipe Connector like that of the present invention. This point is being made to applicant in case the British patent 1931 was possibly erroneously cited (as it appears to be) and if applicant wishes to cite the proper numbered patent.

Claims 17-20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 7.

Claims 1-9 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, line 4, it appears that "first" should be changed to "second" since it is the second bore section (16) that tapers and not the first section (21). In claim 9 (and claims 11-16 which depend there from) "said bend" lacks proper antecedent basis. It appears

that claim 9 should depend from claim 8 rather than claim 7 for proper antecedent basis.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,6,7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. patent 3,314,696 to Ferguson et al.. The body "A" of Ferguson includes a first section (unnumbered) in which the protrusions 42 and 43 fit in; second tapered section 26 with a groove 27 for seal 28 and third section 24.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be

patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-5 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 3,314,696 to Ferguson in view of U.S. patent 5,893,590 to Klinger et al..

Ferguson discloses the claimed device except for the end 20 is a threaded connection end for connecting to conduit 21 and not a barbed connection with a seal ring (claims 4, 5 and 16). Further, as to claim 8 the body "A" is a straight line connector and not an elbow connector. Klinger discloses that it is known in the art to provide a similar type essential catch coupling with the configuration of an elbow or straight line connector (compare figs. 5 and 13) and further the end of the connector 240 is barbed (26) with a seal ring (260 as shown in fig. 15). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the threaded end connection 20 of Ferguson with the barbed and sealed end connection as taught by Klinger, in order to allow for a common connection to a flexible hose. Further, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the body of

Ferguson as an elbow as also taught by Klinger since such change in shape is readily apparently to those skilled in the art and does not provide a patentable distinction over the prior art.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure as they show body members with first and second segments with tapered second segments having seal rings in grooves in the tapered second sections.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Nicholson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0829. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 7:30 to 6:00.

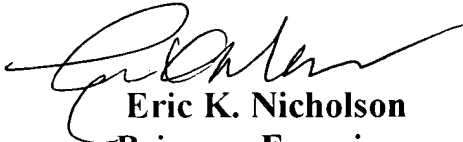
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne, can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for Technology Center 3600 is (703) 872-9326 for "before final" papers and (703) 872-9325 for "after final" papers.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

ekn
1/8/03



Eric K. Nicholson
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600